

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8 have been amended. Claim 10 has been added. Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$200.00 in payment of the fee for the added claim. Please charge any other fees for entry of this Amendment to our Deposit account 03-3415.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-9 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated based on the Yasuda (JP 2001-324749) reference. With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1, 6 and 8 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. In particular, amended claim 1 recites a camera comprising: an image-taking lens barrel which performs an operation in a collapse region and an image-taking region; a view finder optical system including a movable lens unit; and a view finder driving member having a cam which drives the movable lens unit, wherein the image-taking lens barrel operates interlocked with the view finder driving member in one section of the image-taking region, and the interlock between the image-taking lens barrel and the view finder driving member is released in the collapse region and other section of the image-taking region.

Independent claim 6 recites a camera comprising: an image-taking lens barrel which performs an operation between a collapse position and a first zoom position, and performs a zoom operation between the first zoom position and a second zoom position; and a view finder optical system whose angle of view is changed in accordance with the zoom operation, wherein, during the zoom operation of the image-taking lens barrel from the first zoom position toward the second zoom position, the

change of angle of view of the view finder optical system starts from an intermediate position between the first and second zoom positions.

Independent claim 8 recites a camera comprising: an image-taking lens barrel which performs an operation between a collapse position and a first zoom position, and performs a zoom operation between the first zoom position and a second zoom position; and a view finder optical system whose angle of view is changed in accordance with the zoom operation, wherein, during the zoom operation of the image-taking lens barrel from the second zoom position toward the first zoom position, the change of angle of view of the view finder optical system stops at an intermediate position between the second and the first zoom positions.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Yasuda reference is discussed in applicant's specification in the description of the related art. In the camera of the Yasuda reference, the image-taking lens interlocks with the view finder optical system in all sections of the image-taking region. Specifically, with reference to applicant's FIG. 8, the camera of the Yasuda reference operates in accordance with the dashed line "a" in FIG. 8, so that the interlock region of the camera of the Yasuda reference starts at point "c" and extends rightward therefrom throughout the entire image taking zoom region.

The camera defined by applicant's above amended independent claims, on the other hand, operates in accordance with the solid line "b" in FIG. 8, so that the interlock region starts at the point "d" and continues rightward, or stops at the point "d" when moving leftward. In claim 1, the one section of the image-taking region corresponds to the solid line "b" rightward from the point "d", while the collapse

region and the other section of the image-taking region corresponds to the solid line "b" leftward from the point "d". In claims 6 and 8, the first zoom position corresponds to the wide zoom position "W", and the second zoom position corresponds to one zoom position among the zoom positions "M1" to "T". In claims 6 and 8, the intermediate position corresponds to the point "d".


Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 6 and 8, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Yasuda reference. Likewise, applicant's added claim 10 is also believed to patentably distinguish over the Yasuda reference for similar reasons.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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